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ABSTRACT

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Ohio State Department of Vocational Education, Lakeland Community College (LCC) conducted a telephone followup survey to determine the employment activities of students who graduated from selected technology programs in 1974. Information regarding type of employment, job titles, and salaries was sought. The programs selected for followup were: (1) data processing; (2) dental hygiene; (3) electronics engineering technology; (4) mechanical engineering technology; (5) medical laboratory technology; and (6) nursing. Of the 116 graduates of these six programs, 103 (89 percent) were contacted. Overall, almost 90 percent of those contacted held jobs that were directly related to their LCC preparation. Data for each curriculum field are presented in descriptive and tabular form. (DC)

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FOLLOW-UP OF 1974 GRADUATES

IN SELECTED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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April 1975

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NOTE:

Tables A1 - A6 and Table B contain confidential information relating to identified individuals, and have therefore been deleted from this document.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The efforts of several people have made this report possible.

A special thanks must go to the Lakeland graduates themselves who took time to answer our telephone questions and to those who graciously returned our telephone calls to provide us with the needed data. Graduates responded in large numbers to our survey. Without their willingness to give us this information, we would have obtained no results.

Much thanks must go to the efforts of Cuba Hite and Mary Hansen, Research Assistants, who spent many long hours both day and evening in a successful attempt to contact and gain information from all of our graduates.

We must also thank the Career Placement Office for its assistance and Donna Rechner who assisted the Research Office in making telephone calls.

FOLLOW-UP OF 1974 GRADUATES
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INTRODUCTION

One of the primary purposes of the community college is to provide education and training for those students whose immediate goal is employment in a career field. One of the continuing tasks of Lakeland is to determine how well its students are prepared for their next step in either educational and/or career fields. This information is vital if Lakeland is to keep its instructional programs relating to the changing requirements of the business, professional and industrial communities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to investigate the employment activities of 1974 Lakeland graduates in selected technology programs in order to fulfill requirements of the Ohio State Department of Vocational Education. The programs selected for follow-up were:

- Data Processing
- Dental Hygiene
- Electronics Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Nursing

PROCEDURE

The Research Office does a follow-up study of each year's graduates approximately in November or December of the year of graduation. Due to several unavoidable delays, the entire 1974 graduate follow-up is currently in the process of being implemented. However, in order to meet the requirements for the State Department

of Vocational Education, the Research Office, with assistance from the Career Placement Office, did a telephone survey of the 1974 graduates in the above mentioned programs.

The specific questions investigated include:

- Where are the graduates employed.
- What are their job titles.
- What are their salaries.

RESULTS OF TELEPHONE SURVEY

The following section indicates the information resulting from this survey.

Data Processing

The 1974 Data Processing graduates numbered 11. We contacted 10 or 91 per cent of the Data Processing graduates. Of the 10 contacts made, 8 or 80 per cent had employment directly related to the Data Processing curriculum. Of the two graduates who have noncurriculum related employment, one indicated she had been a computer operator but left the firm and currently was unable to find employment as a computer operator. The second person will be attending college full-time beginning June, 1975 with a major in Business Administration at Garfield Senior College.

The mean average salary (excluding one extremely high value) for graduates in Data Processing jobs was $10,680. The median salary was $10,000. The Data Processing salaries ranged from $9,100 to $20,000 annually.

Dental Hygiene

Lakeland had 16 Dental Hygiene graduates. We contacted 12 or 75 per cent of the graduates. Of the 12 contacted, 10 or 83 per cent had jobs directly related to their educational program. The other two graduates currently hold positions as sales clerks. Both indicated they were working in these positions because they were unable to locate Dental Hygienist job openings in the general Lake County area. One said there were positions open in Youngstown and Akron.

It was extremely difficult to compute an "average" salary for the reporting Dental Hygienists. The going rate is $50 per day and their annual salaries are dependent upon the number of days and the number of dentists that they work for. Several are employed, for example, with one dentist for two days a week and a second dentist three days a week, etc.

Electronics Engineering Technology

There were 93 per cent or 14 of the 15 Electronics Engineering graduates who were contacted. Only one could not be reached. Of the 14 contacted, 8 or 53 per cent had employment relevant to their educational program. Of the remaining 6, one was employed part-time, one was laid off and receiving unemployment compensation, three are in full-time attendance at four-year colleges, and one who is currently employed as a salesman will be attending college full-time beginning with the Fall 1975 semester.

For the 6 Electronics Engineering graduates reporting annual salaries, the mean average was $9430 and the median salary was $9350. The salaries ranged from $6900 to $15,000.

Mechanical Engineering Technology

Of the 6 Mechanical Engineering graduates, we were unable to reach only one. This means we had an 83 per cent respondent rate. Of the five contacts made, four positions or 80 per cent were related to the educational program undertaken. One position was a production worker and this job can be considered marginal in its relationship to the Engineering program taken. This employee also indicated he had the position before and during the period he attended Lakeland.

The mean average for four full-time job related employees in Mechanical Engineering was $13,500 and the median salary was $13,000. The salaries ranged from $11,500 to $15,000. Not included in this group is one extremely large salary over $20,000 which represents a composite of a base salary plus a company bonus. Since

we were not able to get the base salary, this figure was excluded from the computations.

Medical Laboratory Technology

There were 10 Medical Laboratory Technology graduates of whom we contacted 8 or 80 per cent. One hundred per cent (8) had positions as Medical Laboratory Technicians.

There were 6 Medical Laboratory Technicians who reported full-time salaries. The mean average salary was $7600. The median salary was $7200. The salaries ranged from $6900 to $8600 annually.

Nursing

There were 58 Nursing graduates and of these, 93 per cent or 54 were contacted and all 54 (100 per cent) were employed in positions related to the Nursing field. Of the 54 contacted, only one was employed part-time. All the other 53 graduates were employed full-time. We received salary information from 45 full-time employees. The mean salary from the 45 mentioned was $10,160 and the median salary was $10,000. The range for Nursing salaries was from $8320 to $15,000.

EVALUATION

Respondents of this study are graduates from 6 separate curricula areas. The report is based on a total of 116 graduates of whom we contacted 103, thereby ending up with an 89 per cent response rate for all 6 programs combined. It should be noted here that although some educational categories have a small number of graduates, the entire population was surveyed and there was an extremely high rate of response. We are satisfied that this response rate is sufficiently high to believe that the data gained is valid information.

The relationship of a graduate's curriculum to his current employment situation yields at least one answer to the question of whether Lakeland Community College is preparing its students for job areas in which they can readily enter. Overall, almost nine-tenths (89 per cent) of those who were contacted had jobs that were judged to be related to the graduates' curricula. Figure 1 graphically illustrates the percentage of respondents by specific educational program having employment congruent with their education.

Job titles, reported by curricula completed, can yield more detailed information and these data are displayed in Table A.

Table B lists the reasons for employment that are not related to the education taken, where this information was available.

Figure 2 illustrates the comparison of mean average and median salaries in the congruent employment for each educational program surveyed.

SUMMARY

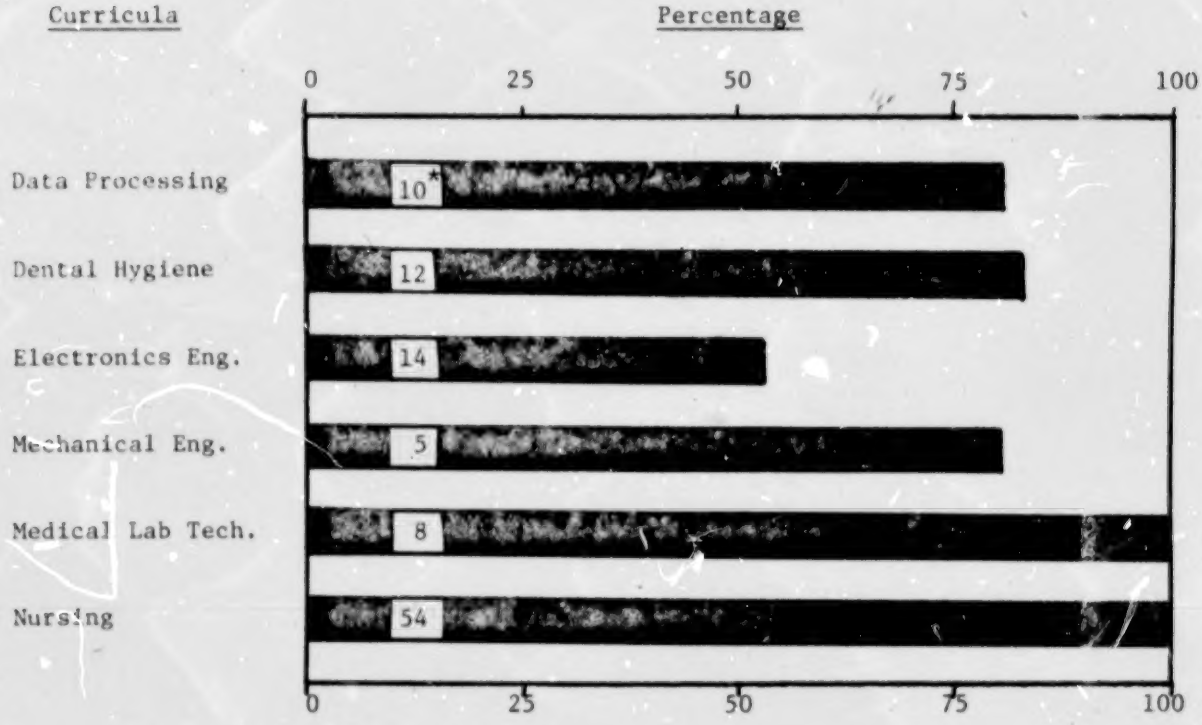
It is hoped that this study has provided relevant data to the question of whether or not Lakeland Community College is preparing its graudates for the career direction in which they were prepared. Information provided by the graduates, through a telephone survey, has given us type of employment, salary information, job titles and some indication as to the reasons for noncurriculum related employment.

Overall, Lakeland graduates have succeeded in obtaining employment in positions that are directly related to the career area in which they originally intended to prepare themselves. Some also have selected, rather than career employment at this time, to continue their education at a post two-year institution.

The Research Office will continue to make every feasible effort to improve the follow-up studies of our graduates. Suggestions for improvement or expansion of this or other research efforts will be welcomed.

FIGURE 1

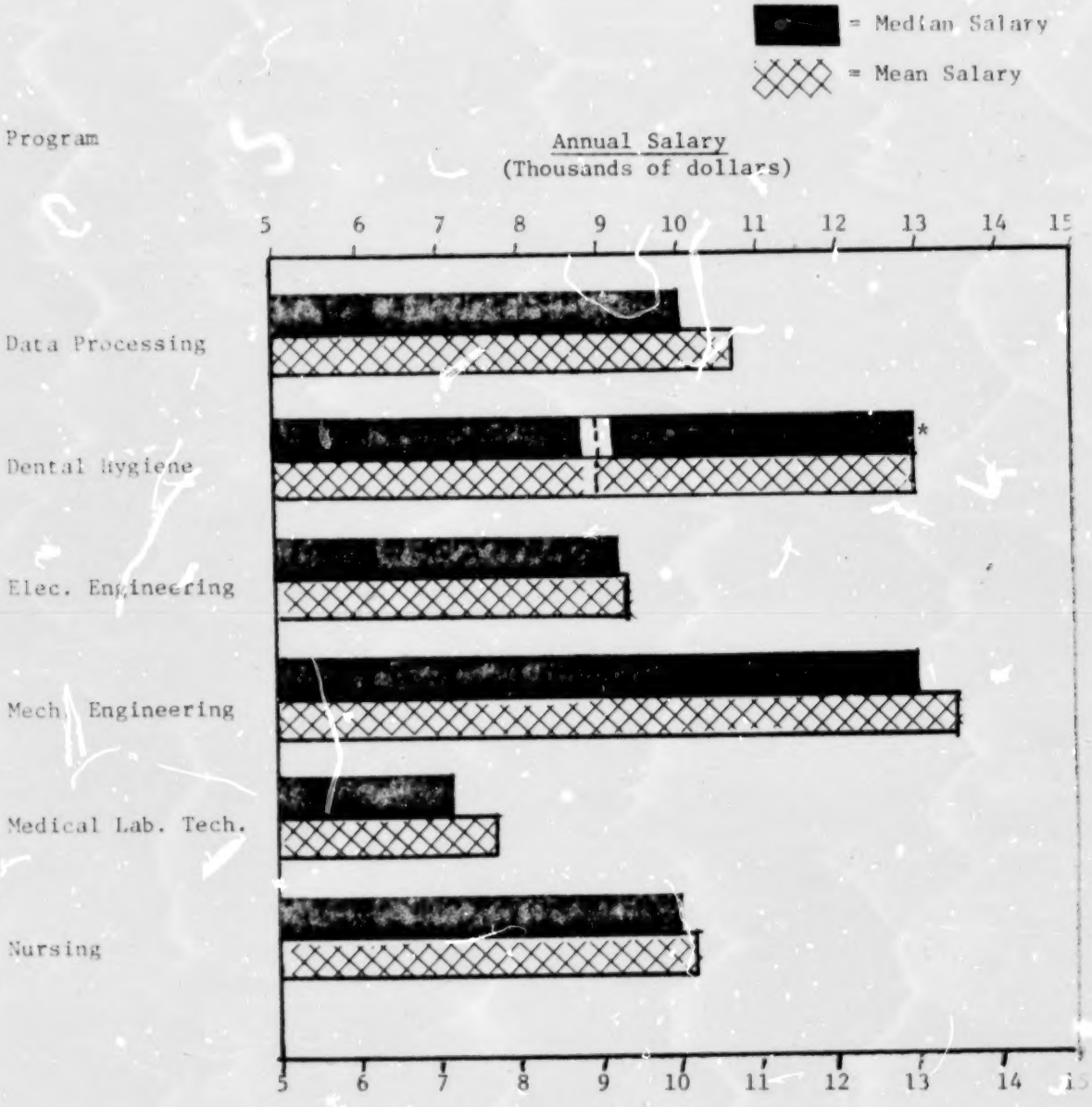
EMPLOYMENT IN AREAS RELATED TO CURRICULUM



* The number within a row is the actual N (population) that was contacted to which the percentage corresponds.

Figure 2

MEAN AVERAGE AND MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARIES BY CURRICULA



* The annual salaries shown above for Dental Hygienists are projected out based on an average daily salary of $50 per day. It must be noted, however, that most Dental Hygienists reporting were not working five days a week and the actual salaries for Dental Hygienists employed full time would be approximately $9,000, as indicated by the dotted line.

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Table C

Summary Totals of Graduates, Number Contacted, and Number Holding Education Related Employment

Program	Graduates N	Contacts (1) N	% of (2) Total	No. Contacts Related Empl. (3) N	% of Total Contacts (4)
Data Processing	11	10	91	8	80
Dental Hygiene	16	12	75	10	83
Electronics Eng.	15	14	93	8	53
Mechanical Eng.	6	5	83	4	80
Medical Lab. Tech.	10	8	80	8	100
Nursing	58	54	93	54	100
Total	116	103	89%	92	89%

1) Contacts = Actual number of graduates with whom we made contact.

2) % of Total = Number of contacts divided by total graduates.

3) No. Contacts Related Empl. = This number represents the number of total contacts who are employed in fields that relate to their educational program.

4) % of Total Contacts = Number of contacts in education related employment divided by actual contacts.

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